

# FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure to present the *2005—2006 Environmental Finance Program Progress Report*, showcasing the latest accomplishments of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB) and the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network, which provide some of the most unique services to a federal agency in the nation.

EFAB, a federally chartered Advisory Committee, provides EPA with a cross-media, intergovernmental perspective on environmental finance that integrates environmental and economic goals and emphasizes public-private partnerships. The 28 all-volunteer financial experts on EFAB advise EPA on environmental financing challenges, providing advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator and program offices on environmental finance issues, options, proposals, and trends. Essentially, EFAB seeks to increase the total investment in environmental protection by leveraging public and private environmental resources. Finally, EFAB produces policy and technical reports on a wide range of environmental finance matters, particularly with regard to issues impacting small communities.

The EFC Network, made up of nine regional centers, provides outreach services to state and local governments and small businesses. These regional centers, funded by EPA along with other public and private monies, provide training, tools, workshops, and other services to give communities the know-how to help them manage the cost of environmental protection. The EFC Network's services are based on the premise that communities want to comply with environmental regulations but often do not know how to pay for them. Many communities, particularly small ones, lack in-house financial expertise. The finance centers help fill this knowledge gap—they know that finance is a critical component of sustainable environmental protection.



This report provides a snapshot of the successful Environmental Finance Program, built over a decade through the interactions of financial experts, communities, universities, and EPA. It documents some of the thousands of individuals, agencies, and communities that have benefited from the program's advice, training, workshops, tools, and personal assistance. In short, it shows the environmental results that a small, dedicated group with a specific mission can achieve.

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many committed people who have helped the Environmental Finance Program along the way. On behalf of a grateful Agency, I would like to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of the members of EFAB and the EFC Network who have willingly and generously given of their time and expertise to provide financing advice and assistance in pursuit of environmental protection.

For more information about the Environmental Finance Program, please visit <[www.epa.gov/efinpage](http://www.epa.gov/efinpage)>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyons Gray".

Lyons Gray, Chief Financial Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency